

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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BRIDGETOWN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

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TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, SOPN

SUBJECT: EL CARIBE REPORT AND EDITORIAL RE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
VIEWS ON COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

1. EL CARIBE (WHOSE DIRECTOR, GERMAN ORNES, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE
PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF THE IAPA AND IS A STRONG OPPONENT OF
THE PROPOSED UNESCO RESOLUTION RE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR
MEDIA OUTPUT) CARRIES FOLLOWING NEWS STORY AND EDITORIAL IN ITS
AUGUST 15 EDITION. EMBASSY HAD NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF REPORTED
REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO EL CARIBE EDITORS.

2.NEWS STORY: QUOTE: YOUNG SUPPORTS UNESCO REGULATE WORLD PRESS
---- BY MANUEL PEREZ SANTANA.

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THE AMBASSADOR OF THE USA TO THE UN SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE IN FAVOR
OF THE INSTALLATION OF STATE CONTROLS OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG SAID THAT HE FAVORED EFFORTS WHICH WILL
BE MADE WITHIN UNESCO TO AUTHORIZE GOVERNMENTS TO IMPOSE CONTROLS
OVER COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

"THAT IS VERY GOOD" SAID YOUNG "BECAUSE THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

ARE VERY POWERFUL". THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, WHO HEADS A MISSION WHICH HAS BEEN VISITING THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN ZONE, WAS QUESTIONED BY EDITORS OF EL CARIBE ABOUT THE MERITS OF PROPOSAL PENDING BEFORE UNESCO IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

YOUNG SAID THAT A COMMITTEE, WHICH HE CALLED "OF WISE MEN", WILL RECOMMEND THE FINAL DESIGNATION TO BE GIVEN TO A RESOLUTION OF SOVIET INSPIRATION WHICH WAS POSTPONED IN THE LAST SESSION OF UNESCO. THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE SOVIET UNION IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO COMBAT MILITARISTIC PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID. HOWEVER, ONE OF ITS ARTICLES PROVIDES THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE PRESS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS. THAT CLAUSE WAS OPPOSED, IN THE UNESCO ASSEMBLY HELD IN NAIROBI, BY DELEGATIONS OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THAT OF THE US.

IT REMAINS HOWEVER ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1978.

RECENTLY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO, AMADOU MATAR M'BOW ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD DESIGNATED A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WHICH MUST GIVE ITS OPINION ON THE SOVIET PROJECT WHICH APPARENTLY COUNTS ON THE APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

AS OF YESTERDAY IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO WILL MAKE UP THE COMMITTEE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD HOWEVER THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US WILL BE MR ELI ABEL, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM OF UNIVERSITY
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OF COLUMBIA IN NEW YORK.

IT COULD NOT BE LEARNED YESTERDAY WHETHER AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, MR YOUNG, HAS JURISDICTION OVER UNESCO WHICH IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL AFFILIATES WITH THE UN.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THE CAREER OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ESPECIALLY IN THE RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS, SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT HIS ATTITUDE DOES NOT SURPRISE THEM. NOT LONG AGO MR YOUNG SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REINTERPRETATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION WHICH GUARANTEES IN ABSOLUTE FORM THAT IN THAT COUNTRY NO LAW RESTRICTING LIBERTY OF THE PRESS WILL BE PASSED. THAT REINTERPRETATION IN THE OPINION OF MR YOUNG IS NECESSARY TO BRIBE WHAT HE CONSIDERS AN EXCESSIVE POWER OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

THE STATEMENTS MADE HERE BY MR YOUNG ARE INTERPRETED AS A REITERATION OF A THOUGHT WHICH HE HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

BETWEEN MR YOUNG AND THE PRESS OF HIS COUNTRY THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN TENSION DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE AMBASSADOR IS VERY GIVEN TO SAYING THINGS THAT LATER REQUIRE RETRACTIONS ON THE PART OF

HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. THIS HOWEVER HAS CAUSED NO EBBING OF THE
CONFIDENCE WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY HAS IN HIM. UNQUOTE.

3. EDITORIAL: QUOTE: UNFORTUNATE DECLARATION.

THE US DELEGATION TO THE UNESCO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NAIROBI
IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR ROUNDLY OPPOSED A SOVIET RESOLUTION
WHICH UNDER THE CONTEXT OF COMBATING RACISM AND MILITARISM WOULD
ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTROLS OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

"THE ENEMIES OF THIS DANGEROUS DECLARATION DID NOT SUCCEED IN
DEFEATING IT. THE QUESTION WAS POSTPONED FOR THE 1978 ASSEMBLY.
MEANWHILE, THE PROBLEM MUST BE STUDIED BY A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS
SELECTED FROM AMONG PERSONS WHO ARE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
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THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, MR ANDREW
YOUNG, REPLIED TO QUESTIONS OF AN EDITOR OF THIS NEWSPAPER IN A
FORM DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE POSITION WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT
TOOK BEFORE THE NAIROBI MEETING. IN HIS REPLY HE SHOWED HIMSELF
IN FAVOR OF THE EFFORT BEING MADE WITHIN UNESCO TO IMPOSE
CONTROLS OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA BECAUSE HE ALLEGED THAT
THEY WERE "VERY POWERFUL."

"THAT IS AN OPINION VERY MUCH IN STYLE AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF
TOTALITARIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DICTATORS WHO OPPRESS THE
THIRD WORLD BUT FROM THE LIPS OF AN IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL
DIPLOMAT OF A DEMOCRATIC NATION LIKE THE US IT IS, TO BE VERY
COURTEOUS, UNFORTUNATE. AND IN OUR VIEW THE TERM IS APPLICABLE
EVEN IN CASE MR YOUNG WAS EXPRESSING A STRICTLY PERSONAL POINT
OF VIEW.

"GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US AS THE GREATEST DEMOCRATIC
POWER OF THE WORLD, AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DECLARATION
IS ALSO TROUBLING, AND HOPEFULLY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL
EXPLAIN WHETHER MR YOUNG REFLECTS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF
HIS COUNTRY. END QUOTE.
HURWITZ UNQUOTE VANCE

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